

Index-Journal
Greenwood, SC
Circ. 15173
From Page:
5
6/17/2007
61021



135

Silver Haired legislators meet to discuss issues

Silver Haired legislators from the Upper Savannah Area Agency on Aging region met recently to develop resolutions that can positively affect South Carolina's seniors.

Edward Petit and Henry Quarles, of Greenwood County; Jack Deason, of Abbeville County; Brenda Bedenbaugh, of Saluda County; and Norma Curtis, of McCormick County, met at the offices of the Upper Savannah Council of Governments (Area Agency on Aging) to "work on issues and resolutions to present to the state Silver Haired Legislature," Curtis said.

Curtis said she could not immediately elaborate on the discussions.

The Silver Haired Legislature's purpose is to identify issues, concerns and possible solutions for problems faced by South Carolina residents with a special emphasis on issues related to seniors; to make recommendations to the governor and to members of the General Assembly; to inform the public about senior issues; to encourage seniors to participate actively in public affairs; to function on a nonpartisan basis; and to promote good government for all South Carolinians.

Silver Haired legisla-



Contributed photo

Local Silver Haired Legislature members meet to discuss issues. From left are Edward Petit, of Greenwood County; Brenda Bedenbaugh, of Saluda County; Henry Quarles, of Greenwood County; Norma Curtis, of McCormick County; and Jack Deason, of Abbeville County.

tors adhere to a schedule that includes a Sept. 11-13 session at the Statehouse, where they will take up seats in the House to discuss priorities. The Upper Savannah contingent is one of 10 statewide Silver Haired caucuses. Each caucus will send its resolutions to the state by the end of June to begin the process of giving them priority.

The Silver Haired Legislature's already adopted priorities include: funding a transportation plan for seniors; requiring

criminal background checks for home and adult daycare service providers; providing low-income seniors with prescription drug assistance to cover the Medicare Part D coverage gap; increasing state funding for in-home and community-based services for seniors; and providing more funding for necessary life-sustaining shelter, rent and services to care for elderly abused victims who must be removed from their places of residency.